AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable surface layer;

a backing sheet; and

an absorbent layer interposed between said surface layer and said backing sheet,

said surface layer including: a porous film having a plurality of through holes; and a fibrous layer disposed on ~~the~~ a liquid-receiving face of said porous film, said fibrous layer being of a plurality of layers extending longitudinally in parallel and being ~~completely separate~~ separated from each other at predetermined latitudinally ~~spacing~~ spaced intervals, each ~~layer of said~~ fibrous layer being fixed to said porous film at spaced fixing portions, so that said porous film is exposed between adjacent rows of said fibrous layer.

2. (Currently amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fixing portions are spaced apart from each other in a longitudinal direction along which ~~said layers of~~ said fibrous layer ~~extend~~ extends, and between adjacent fixing portions each layer is raised ~~between adjacent fixing portions~~ away from the porous film[[,]] to form a plurality of ~~loop~~ looped portions.

3. (Currently amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said porous film is contracted in the longitudinal direction along which ~~said layers of~~ said fibrous layer ~~extend~~ extends, after said layers are fixed to said porous film, for reducing a pitch between adjacent fixing portions for raising ~~said loop~~ looped portions.

4. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3, wherein said porous film is formed of a stretchable synthetic resin film.

5. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3, which further comprises an elastic member fixed on said porous film, for providing contracting force to said porous film.

6. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3, wherein said porous film is formed of a heat-shrinkable synthetic resin film.

7. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 4, wherein said through holes are opened in a quadrangular shape, so that said porous film is formed with separation strips separating adjacent quadrangular through holes, said separation strips extending oblique relative to the direction along which said layers of said fibrous layer extend.

8. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 2, wherein a total length L along the outermost surface of each loop portion, between adjacent fixing portions, is in a range of 1.1 to 4 times of a pitch P between adjacent fixing portions.

9. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fibrous layer is formed of a bundle of continuous filaments.

10. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fibrous layer is formed of a non-woven fabric.

11. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 10, wherein each layer of said fibrous layer is formed of a bundle of thin strips formed by cutting said non-woven fabric.

12. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein each layer of said fibrous layer is a bundle of continuous

filaments opened from a tow or a bundle of thin strips cut out from a non-woven fabric.